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is not only an attractive, but also a forcible apology for the historical character of the narratives of the resurrection.

His critical position is nearer to that of such scholars as Weiss and Beyschlag than to that of the strict conservatives. He admits errors and discrepancies in the narratives, *e. g.*, that Matthew represents Jesus as appearing to Mary Magdalene with the other Mary as they were departing from the tomb, while John says that Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene alone in the garden; and again that Luke puts certain words of Jesus on the day of the resurrection which were spoken on the day of the ascension. He omits Matthew's narrative regarding an earthquake at the opening of the tomb. He recognizes two streams in the early tradition—one Galilean and the other Jerusalemite—but holds that they are in the main harmonizable.

His attitude toward difficulties and mystery is that of soberness and fairness. There is much in connection with the resurrection which he does not at all seek to explain. The one thing which it was designed to accomplish was to convince the disciples that Jesus had risen and was alive. And this end was indeed accomplished. The objective reality of the resurrection is maintained, but at the same time the author discriminates sharply between a resurrection and the revivification of a corpse.

The book does not confine itself strictly to the data of the gospels. The author here and there draws on his imagination to fill out a picture of which the text has only a suggestion; but the hypotheses that he makes, *e. g.*, in his description of the mood of Peter when Jesus appeared to him, seem very reasonable.

It may be noticed, in conclusion, that Burckhardt regards the act of Jesus in John 20: 22, 23, as symbolical, and that he identifies the appearance to more than five hundred disciples with the appearance to the eleven apostles on a mountain in Galilee.

GEORGE H. GILBERT.

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,
Chicago, Ill.

DIE ÄLTESTE CHRISTENHEIT. Betrachtungen über die apostolische Geschichte. Von GEORG LASSON, Pfarrer in Friedersdorf. Erster Band: Die Gründung der Kirche. Gütersloh: C. Bertelsmann, 1899. Pp. xii + 408. M. 4.80.

THIS is in some respects a unique book. It is an attempt, and, we believe, a successful one, by a pastor to weave the historical facts of the founding of the Christian church into a series of short sermons, each

of which contains a central thought, while all of them combined present a connected history of the period treated. There are just one hundred and one of these short sermonic sketches in the book under review, and each one has a text which is treated after the expository method. The ground covered by the book extends from the ascension of Christ to the beginning of the third missionary journey of Paul, and therefore needs another volume to complete the history of the entire apostolic period. The object of the author seems to have been to write a book for popular use which would also answer the purpose of a volume of sermons. One chief difficulty in writing a book of such a character is in keeping the great wealth of historical material in subjection to the devotional element which ought to be prominent. The author has been successful in this, so that his sketches are not dry historical dissertations, but really historical sermons. In touching upon questions like these: the early church government, the doctrine of Paul in 1 and 2 Corinthians, the beginning of heresies, and the missionary spirit in the Gentile churches, the author has in each case found an application to present-day needs without becoming controversial or polemical. A strong, healthy evangelical spirit pervades the book, and the great movements, especially characteristic of the apostolic period, are brought out in relief. We noted an occasional departure from historical interpretation to defend a later usage, as for example in the sketch on "Faith and Baptism," where the baptism of the eunuch is made the occasion for bringing in and defending infant baptism, and where the omission from the more perfect Greek texts of Acts 8:37 is declared to be an unanswerable argument against rebaptism. There are, however, only a few such blunders in the book. A pastor will find the book, in its plan and in a great many of its details, very suggestive.

ALBERT J. RAMAKER.

ROCHESTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,
Rochester, N. Y.

DIE TODESTAGE DER APOSTEL PAULUS UND PETRUS UND IHRE RÖMISCHEN DENKMÄLER. Von C. ERBES. (= *Texte und Untersuchungen*, Neue Folge, IV, 1a.) Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichsche Buchhandlung, 1899. Pp. 138. M. 5.50.

WE are indebted to Dr. Erbes for a thorough and scholarly review of the whole complex problem of the dates of Paul's and Peter's deaths. The discussion involves the controverted question as to the year in